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Amendments to the Constitution.

* 1302 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the State Government was consulted by the Union Government regarding the proposal to amend Article 31 of the Constitution; and

(*b*) if so, the view expressed by the State Government?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) A letter was received by the Chief Minister from the Prime Minister.

" (*b*) Government are not in a position to disclose the information as it is of a confidential nature."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Are the Government at least aware that the Central Government is every day encroaching upon the rights of the Provincial Government? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" What has that to do with this question? "

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" By bringing in such frequent amendments to the Constitution, Sir."

Women Medical Officers.

* 1303 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the reason for permitting the Women Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Health) employed under local bodies to do private practice?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The ban imposed on Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Health) under local bodies debarring them from private practice was lifted subject to the condition that there should be no detriment to their duties in the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, as great difficulty was experienced in recruiting candidates to the posts, under existing service conditions."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" They were having private practice even before. But because officially also they have now been allowed private practice, they will begin to charge heavily even for ordinary cases treating them as private ones. Will the Government therefore revise their order so that no private practice is allowed? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir, they were not doing private practice before. In fact many of them were trying to get jobs in the Medical Department where they have the privilege of private practice."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that Women Medical Officers in Maternity and Child Welfare Centres run by the Madras Corporation are not allowed private practice and if so, may I know why there should be such a discrepancy in the rural areas? "

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not know about it. That matter will be looked into."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Since Women Medical Officers are few and far between, will this Government please encourage such private practice in public interest? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. Government have lifted the ban on private practice. They are now allowed to do private practice."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sometimes there are complaints made against Women Medical Officers employed in Government hospitals. When such is the case and when people have not attained, when Government servants have not attained certain moral standards, the Government would be causing havoc on the people in the rural areas if they allow private practice to Women Medical Officers employed in local bodies? Will the Government therefore discourage such private practice? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Does the hon. Member want that no woman doctor employed in Government hospitals should be allowed private practice? I think that kind of treatment to women doctors in Government service is a far-fetched proposition."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" Is there any fee prescribed for these medical practitioners when they attend to private cases? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No fees are fixed."

Transfer of Fort Cochin Municipal employees.

* 1304 *Q.*—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the opinion of Fort Cochin Municipality was sought while transfering certain employees of the Municipality to Kozhikode Municipality in the year 1953?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Two employees of the Fort Cochin Municipality were transferred to Kozhikode Municipality in spite of the Fort Cochin Municipality objecting to the transfer. The practice has been not to transfer any employee from a municipality to another, if the particular municipality in which the employee is working objects to the transfer. In this case Government have acted against the will of the Fort Cochin Municipality. Will the Government therefore re-consider the issue and see to it that the two employees are transferred back to Fort Cochin Municipality? "